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LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the report of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of the New York Declaration, dated 28 February 2000 (see annex). The report was prepared in accordance with the conclusions of the New York Declaration of 15 November 1999.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Report of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of the New York Declaration

In accordance with the conclusions of the New York Declaration of 15 November 1999, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina prepared a report for the Security Council on the implementation of commitments pertaining to that document. The purpose of the New York Declaration was to speed up the implementation of the Dayton Agreement, the democratization process and to strengthen the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Presidency has, in the said period of time, regularly considered and made decisions on issues pertaining to the Declaration. The achieved results are shown in the text below, by sections.

1. Border Service

On 24 December 1999, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 62nd session, passed the draft Law on Border Service, with established deadlines and guidelines from the New York Declaration, and the Law has been forwarded to the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina for further procedure. Unfortunately, the Law was not passed in the Parliament, so the High Representative, using his authority, imposed it. Also, it should be emphasized that the training process of the future Border Service staff is running as envisaged. The first Border Service unit was formed in mid-February and it will assume its duties in March. Deployment of border service officers to foreseen locations and border lines in the country will mark the beginning of the last phase in the establishment of the Border Service. At its 66th session, held on 9 February 2000, the Presidency appointed the Director and Deputy Director of the Border Service, in accordance with commitments in the Law on Border Service. At its 67th session, the appointed leading officers of the Border Service were tasked to harmonize the organization and structure of the service, within 15 days, and to present it to the Presidency for adoption, an action which is currently in progress.

2. Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina secretariat

At its 64th session, held on 23 December 1999, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina made a decision on establishment of the secretariat of the Presidency and also adopted the Book of Rules of the Organization and the Job Classification in the secretariat. At its 66th session, the Presidency appointed the leadership of the secretariat and thus initiated its work. In addition, space was made available for the secretariat operations within the Presidency building. In that way, the Presidency met the commitments pertaining to this issue in the New York Declaration. The filling of other vacancies in the secretariat is in progress.

3. Council of Ministers

Observing the decision of the Constitutional Court on the certain parts in the Law on the Council of Ministers that are opposed to the Constitution, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 64th session, held on

23 December 1999, made a decision on the reorganization of the Council of Ministers. At its 66th session, the Presidency harmonized the new structure of the Council of Ministers based on recommendations of the Madrid Declaration, and thus paved the way for a more efficient functioning of the Council of Ministers.

Concerning the adoption and increase of the budget for institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 61st session, held on 9 December 1999, the Presidency adopted the budget, with anticipated funding for newly established institutions of the joint services, the Border Service and the Secretariat of the Military Committee. It needs to be emphasized that the Constitutional Court budget was increased from KM 600,060 last year to KM 1,203,900 this year. Also, within the International Monetary Fund guidelines on the budget formation for Bosnia and Herzegovina, funds for activities of existing Ministries in the Council of Ministers were secured.

4. Electoral Law

Starting from the conclusion that the Electoral Law is of paramount importance for the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, integration processes and democratization of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina offered full support for the urgent passage of the Law, as the Presidency is of the opinion that every delay in this matter will slow down the initiated democratic processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The importance of harmonization of the Electoral Law with internationally recognized standards and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina is emphasized in the New York Declaration. At the 61st session of the Presidency, foundations for the Electoral Law were determined and those are in complete accordance with the adopted conclusions of the New York Declaration. Since the first version of the Electoral Law was presented, the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe have made changes in the Law and the new version is still being discussed in the Parliament.

5. Participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in United Nations peace operations

Starting from the importance of the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in United Nations peace operations in the world, the Presidency offered full support to this initiative. In cooperation with the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), 20 police officers completed training and are ready to leave in the first peace mission to East Timor. Simultaneously, preparations are in progress to establish the first military peace forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which would be involved in crisis situations in various parts of the world. The Presidency also offered its support for this project at its 68th session.

6. Struggle against corruption

At its 65th session, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina made a decision on accession to the Regional Centre South-east Europe Cooperative Initiative (SECI), for struggle against international crime, and thus actively participated in the regional security initiative, which will become part of the

Stability Pact project. At its 67th session, the Presidency supported the anti-corruption initiative of the working group for security, and presented 11 projects for security in the civilian and military field. At its 68th session, the Presidency also made a decision on signing the civic-legal convention of the Council of Europe for the struggle against corruption. The Presidency also established that the status of a wide range of activities related to the strengthening of institutions for the struggle against corruption is satisfactory. The Presidency also urged all relevant institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to cooperate with the international community in the acceleration of this process, as well as in the prevention and removal of such harmful occurrences in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

7. Establishment of the central database and unique passport for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Within the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications, a central database is in the final phase of establishment. The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed its strong support for the project and forwarded the changes to the Law on Passports to the Parliament, referring to the new passport, which will have only Bosnia and Herzegovina written in Latin and Cyrillic script on the cover.

8. The report of the Security Council on the return of refugees

The Law on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, which entered into force on 31 December 1999, envisaged the establishment of a Committee for the Implementation of the Return Programme. On 14 February 2000, the Council of Ministers and Entity Governments nominated members to this Committee, who were subsequently appointed by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This Committee will, in the shortest time possible, make a report on the implementation of annex 7 of the Dayton Peace Agreement (on the return of refugees). Following the provisions of the New York Declaration concerning the participation of international community representatives in the work of this Committee, the participation of Werner Blatter, Chief of Mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), was confirmed.

The report of the working group on the current situation regarding the return of refugees and internally displaced persons and on progress in the return process in Bosnia and Herzegovina is attached as an enclosure to the present report.

Enclosure I

Preliminary report of the Committee for the Implementation of the Return Programme

I. INTRODUCTION

With the aim of carrying out the commitments of the New York Declaration, on 23 February 2000, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina reached a decision on the establishment of the Committee for the Implementation of the Return Programme consisting of representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), representatives of the three constituent peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina and representatives of the relevant Ministries of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska.

The establishment of this Committee is also envisioned by the Law on Refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Internally Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, according to that Law, the most important tasks of the Committee are supervision, coordination and inter-entity consultation on implementation of the return programmes, as well as on all other issues pertaining to creating conditions conducive to the return of refugees and internally-displaced persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Commission held its first session on 23 February 2000, during which, inter alia, an agreement was reached on preparing a report on the current situation regarding the return of refugees and internally displaced persons and on progress in the return process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to be presented to the Security Council for its consideration.

II. CURRENT POLITICAL, LEGAL AND MATERIAL/FINANCIAL PREREQUISITES FOR THE RETURN OF REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY-DISPLACED PERSONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

During 1999, particularly in the second half of the year, a more favourable environment for return was created compared to previous years.

On the ground, stronger political will, as seen in the broader engagement of the State authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the issues of the return and creation of political and legal prerequisites, was demonstrated. Although we are not completely satisfied with the level of achievement, significant progress has been made, particularly in the area of so-called minority returns, through the opening of other towns, and even some regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the return of refugees and internally-displaced persons.

This positive development is the result of more active interrelations and increased cooperation between the entity Governments as well as joint visits on the ground. However, entity Governments and the international community have not provided sufficient material and financial support for the return.

Through more active and timely delivery of material and financial support for housing renovation, and the revitalization of the economy and infrastructure, returns will be sustainable, thus creating a solid basis for the continuation of further returns in larger numbers to these areas, particularly minority returns.

Simultaneous with the creation of a more favourable environment for the return on the ground, the authorized ministries of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its entities made a big step forward by adopting laws relative to the refugees and other related areas.

Thus, on 23 December 1999, the State Law on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a fundamental and systematic law that provides equal regulations related to the issues of the return for the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was adopted.

Furthermore, entity laws and regulations that further regulate the rights of refugees and the issues of operative procedure of return have also been adopted.

In order to address the concrete operative procedures the administrative authorities, in cooperation with UNHCR, have initiated the Return Application Database System project (RADS), which was based on and harmonized with the State and Entity Governments' instructions on ways of organizing the return of refugees and internally-displaced persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In over 150 computerized locations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, at all levels, from municipal to State, the RADS software has been installed and is currently in use.

As of February 2000, in both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, over 100,000 family applications have been stored on database, which means that over 400,000 persons have applied for return.

Currently the applications are in the process of being assessed in order to estimate the level of devastation and the possibility of moving back into housing units.

The Steering Board and the executive bodies of RADS have already been established.

RADS is a basis for future activities and a step forward in the direction of the preparations for massive, organized return of refugees and internally displaced persons. It is a very dependable base for planning and developing the Return Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Committee has already made the first steps and, with UNHCR, has commenced the elaboration of the Return Programme.

A valuable contribution to the creation of a favourable and safe legal framework was also made by the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and

Herzegovina through its efforts to harmonize property and housing legislation throughout the country.

The Amnesty Law, as well as the Law on Customs Privileges, which are favourable to the returnees to Bosnia and Herzegovina, have also been adopted.

There is also a whole range of other administrative measures that have been taken in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to simplify the process of the return and secure the safety of its citizens, inter alia, measures pertaining to the procedure of submitting return applications, the registration of refugees, the issuance of identification documents and travel documents, and to freedom of movement.

The UNHCR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the State authorities and authorized international institutions, is currently working on a document under the working title "Simplified Procedure of Return", aimed at finding the modalities for simplifying the procedure for return (verifying citizenship, obtaining travelling documents for returnees, tax privileges, etc.).

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska made a joint presentation at the Stability Pact, submitting the joint project entitled "Project for the Return of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2000-2001", which was introduced in an affirmative manner under the title "Everybody to his/her Home".

The total cost of this project is $1 billion, and its realization would create conditions for the return of 100,000 families, that is 400,000 persons, in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In addition to pledged international assistance, despite a very complex socio-political situation, continuous efforts are being made for the contribution of a portion of the necessary means from our own resources. Thus, last year's amount of 270,000 DM from the budget of Bosnia and Herzegovina allocated for the return of refugees and internally displaced in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been increased to 1.4 million DM for this fiscal year.

In the same manner, the budgets of the Entity Governments have undergone similar adjustments in amounts allocated for these purposes for the current fiscal year.

Thus, the Republika Srpska will allocate 11 million DM while the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina will allocate 4.7 million DM for these purposes from their respective budgets for this year.

All the aforementioned indicates that the political environment is becoming more and more favourable for return, that in the past year significant political obstacles to the return have been removed and that many areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been opened to return. However, it is also indicative of the fact that the returns were not enhanced by adequate assistance, either from within Bosnia and Herzegovina or from the international community.

III. CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING THE RETURN OF REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

In the period from 1992 to the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, about 2,200,000 persons were displaced from their pre-war homes, a figure which represents over 50 per cent of the pre-war domicile population of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Out of this number, about 1,170,000 persons sought refugee protection outside Bosnia and Herzegovina in over 100 countries all over the world, while, at the same time, around 1 million persons were internally displaced within the country.

In the region, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still the country with the largest number of refugees and, simultaneously, the country facing the largest challenge from internally displaced persons.

Today, close to 717,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina are still living in over 40 host countries, out of which the largest number are in the countries in the region (in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, about 205,000, in the Republic of Croatia, about 81,000) and in Europe (in Germany, around 45,000, in the Scandinavian countries around 88,000, as well as in Austria and in the Benelux countries, among others), with a large number of migrations to countries overseas (in the United States of America around 72,000, in Canada around 51,000, and in Australia around 22,000).

The number of refugees by host country is presented in chart I below.

Chart I. Numeric indicators of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina

No.	Host country	No. of refugees 1992-1995	No. of refugees 2000	Resolved status in the asylum country	Awaiting for permanent status	No. of returns to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Gone to third country
1.	Germany	320 000	45 000	15 000	30 000	221 000	37 000
2.	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	277 000	205 000	5 000	200 000	28 000	44 000
3.	Austria	86 500	71 000	69 200	1 800	10 000	5 500
4.	Croatia	170 000	81 000	55 000	26 000	44 000	35 000
5.	Slovenia	43 100	4 900	3 700	1 200	14 500	23 200
6.	France	6 000	5 000	4 200	800	900	100
7.	Switzerland	24 500	12 000	4 564	7 436	10 144	2 600
8.	Italy	12 100	8 100	2 200	5 900	2 000	2 000
9.	Turkey	23 500	1 500	1 000	500	4 200	17 800
10.	Luxembourg	1 500	1 300	1 300	-	-	-
11.	Netherlands	22 000	25 000	7 500	17 500	3 500	2 000
12.	Belgium	5 000	5 500	3 000	2 500	500	-
13.	Liechtenstein	450	225	-	225	225	-
14.	Sweden	58 000	56 130	52 500	3 630	1 500	-
15.	Denmark	17 000	21 500	20 900	600	3 100	1 500
16.	Norway	12 000	11 450	11 450	-	2 500	1 300
17.	Finland	1 500	1 200	1 200	-	250	100
18.	Hungary	7 000	3 500	3 050	450	2 800	1 300
19.	Czech Republic	5 000	3 500	3 000	500	1 000	1 000
20.	Spain and Portugal	4 500	3 500	1 500	2 000	1 000	1 000
21.	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	9 000	300	200	100	3 700	2 600
22.	United States of America	20 000	71 500	71 500	-	1 500	6 000
23.	Canada	20 000	51 000	51 000	-	600	1 300
24.	Australia	15 000	22 000	22 000	-	800	-
25.	Greece	4 000	3 000	2 700	300	600	400
26.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4 100	3 200	1 850	1 350	600	500
	Total	1 168 750	717 005	414 314	302 691	359 219	186 200

Even after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, a large number of persons left Bosnia and Herzegovina. Host countries have also noted significant movements of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina at this time. Specifically, during the period from January 1996 to the present, under the auspices of the International Migration Organization, a total of 95,000 citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina left former host countries and migrated to a third country. Most of them went, with the intention of permanently residing, to traditional immigrant overseas countries such as the United States of America (about 65,000), Canada (about 16,000) and Australia (about 7,000), but they also went to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and other developed and prosperous countries in Europe and worldwide.

Presently, out of the total number of refugees in the third countries, according to the estimates of the Ministry for the Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNHCR, close to 303,000 persons are still awaiting permanent resolution, meaning that they have not permanently resolved their status in the country of reception through citizenship relations, a permanent residence permit, temporary residence permit, asylum, work authorization or any other legal manner.

Out of this number of persons with no permanent status in the third countries, 70 per cent are located in the nearby countries in the region (the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), about 28 per cent are in the States Members of the European Union (most in Germany, Switzerland and Austria) and about 2 per cent are in other countries (overseas or others).

Based on the above, one can expect the following developments:

Out of 302,691 refugees that do not have permanent status in the host country, some 80,000 will integrate into the system of the host country, around 30,000 will migrate to a third country (the United States of America, Canada or Australia), while close to 200,000 persons will return to Bosnia and Herzegovina within a longer time-frame.

In addition to this large number of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina found the world over, we are also facing the issue of 809,500 internally displaced persons. Out of this number, 473,500 (58.5 per cent) are on the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 336,000 (41 per cent) are on the territory of the Republika Srpska.

Of the total number of internally displaced persons on the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 60 per cent are the displaced from the territory of the Republika Srpska and 40 per cent are internally displaced from within the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

An enormous burden for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and at the same time a political and social obstacle to the process of return in 1999, was receiving and providing for close to 70,000 refugees from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Currently, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, some 40,000 refugees from the Republic of Croatia, mainly located in the Republika Srpska (the Serbs from the Kninska Krajina), and some 20,000 refugees from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 12,000 of them at the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 8,000 in the Republika Srpska, are being provided for.

IV. REVIEW OF REALIZED RETURNS

From the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement to 1 January 2000, a total of 645,960 persons returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of that number, 349,969 are refugees and 295,991 are internally displaced persons. Of the total number of returnees, 429,732 are Bosniaks, 87,979 are Croats, 124,408 are Serbs and 3,841 are the others.

The following chart contains the review of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Chart II. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Year	Refugees	Internally displaced persons	Total
1996	88 039	164 741	252 780
1997	120 280	58 295	178 575
1998	110 000	29 570	139 570
1999	31 650	43 385	75 035
Total	349 969	295 991	645 960

The return of internally displaced persons, in comparison to the return of refugees, has occurred at a much slower pace. During the period from the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement to the present date, a total of 295,991 internally displaced persons returned to their pre-war homes, that is, some 46 per cent of the total number of returnees to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A. The return of internally displaced persons

Out of the total number of returnees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 205,448 persons, that is 69.5 per cent, returned to the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and 90,543 persons, or 30.5 per cent, to the territory of the Republika Srpska.

Chart III below contains a detailed review of realized returns of the refugees on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, by the entities, the year of the return and the nationality of the returnees.

Chart III. Review of the return of internally displaced persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement to 1 January 2000

Year	Nationality	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Republika Srpska	Total in Bosnia and Herzegovina
1996	Bosniaks	101 266	136	101 402
	Croats	447	58	505
	Serbs	1 179	61 613	62 792
	Others	21	21	42
Total		102 913	61 828	164 741
1997	Bosniaks	38 821	626	39 447
	Croats	10 163	28	10 191
	Serbs	3 971	4 481	8 452
	Others	205	0	205
Total		53 160	5 135	58 295
1998	Bosniaks	9 041	6 765	15 806
	Croats	4 040	285	4 325
	Serbs	6 059	3 080	9 139
	Others	300		300
Total		19 440	10 130	29 570
1999	Bosniaks	14 320	10 587	24 907
	Croats	5 747	1 013	6 760
	Serbs	9 649	1 666	11 315
	Others	219	184	403
Total		29 935	13 450	43 385
Total (Dayton Peace Agreement - 1/1/2000)		205 448	90 543	295 991

B. Return of refugees

As far as the return of refugees to Bosnia and Herzegovina, statistics indicate that out of the total number of 350,000 refugees that have returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina, for close to 50,000 of them the return was organized by

the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for close to 190,000 persons, the return was arranged or assisted either by the authorized international organizations (UNHCR, International Organization for Migration or others) or by the host country, while 110,000 refugees returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina on their own arrangement.

The review of the return of refugees is presented in chart IV below.

Chart IV. Review of the return of refugees to the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement to 1 January 2000

Year	Nationality	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Republika Srpska	Total in Bosnia and Herzegovina
1996	Bosniaks	76 385		76 385
	Croats	3 144		3 144
	Serbs	552	7 925	8 477
	Others	33		33
Total		80 114	7 925	88 039
1997	Bosniaks	74 552	204	74 756
	Croats	33 495	73	33 568
	Serbs	2 849	8 287	11 136
	Others	754	66	820
Total		111 650	8 630	120 280
1998	Bosniaks	77 310	1 279	78 589
	Croats	22 930	257	23 187
	Serbs	4 307	2 458	6 765
	Others	1 453	6	1 459
Total		106 000	4 000	110 000

Year	Nationality	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Republika Srpska	Total in Bosnia and Herzegovina
1999	Bosniaks	17 359	1 081	18 440
	Croats	5 960	339	6 299
	Serbs	4 370	1 962	6 332
	Others	491	88	579
Total		28 180	3 470	31 650
Total (Dayton Peace Agreement - 1/1/2000)		325 944	24 025	349 969

From the above charts containing data on the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, one can clearly see that the expected results have not yet been achieved. Analysing the reasons for this, one can conclude that the slow pace of the returns was primarily the result of the impact of the following factors:

1. During the period 1996-1998, the so-called majority return process was mainly completed with the so-called minority return pending and to be completed in 1999 and in the following years;

2. The return process has not been enhanced by the provision of material and financial prerequisites, neither by the State authorities nor by the international community, as was necessary;

3. The influx of a large number of the refugees from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly from 24 March 1999, has significantly affected the process of the return, especially that of minorities.

We consider that the above factors have inflicted great damage to the planned process of the return, even more so since the political circumstances at the projected period of return in 1999 were much more favourable than during the period of 1996-1999, when a considerably larger number of the returns was noted.

V. MINORITY RETURNS

From the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement to the present date, 127,721 so-called minority returns have been realized, representing 19.8 per cent of the total number of returns.

Of this number, 104,990 persons (26,008 Bosniaks, 46,046 Croats and 32,936 Serbs) returned to the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, representing 81.9 per cent of the total number of minority returns.

In the second half of 1999, owing to a favourable political environment in the Republika Srpska, significant progress was made in the area of realized minority returns, resulting in an actual number of minority returns to the Republika Srpska of close to 25,000, out of which 13,020 were registered returns.

During the same period, 22,731 persons (20,678 Bosniaks and 2,053 Croats), that is, 18.1 per cent of the total number of minority returns, have returned to the territory of the Republika Srpska.

Review of minority returns categorized by year, nationality and entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina is contained in the following chart V below.

Chart V. Minority returns in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement to 1 January 2000

Year	Nationality	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Republika Srpska	Total in Bosnia and Herzegovina
1996-1997	Bosniaks	11 200	966	12 166
	Croats	24 647	159	24 806
	Serbs	8 551		8 551
Total		44 398	1 125	45 523
1998	Bosniaks	9 177	8 044	17 221
	Croats	13 062	542	13 604
	Serbs	10 366		10 366
Total		32 605	8 586	41 191
1999	Bosniaks	5 631	11 668	17 229
	Croats	8 337	1 352	9 686
	Serbs	14 019		14 019
Total		27 987	13 020	41 007
Total (Dayton Peace Agreement - 1/1/2000)		104 990	22 731	127 721

Annexed to the present report are charts of minority returns in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in its entities by year, municipality and city, urban areas where returns occurred and nationality of the returnees (see enclosure II).

Minority returns to Brcko

From the time of the opening of Brcko to returns to 1 January 2000, 5,182 returns were realized (Brcko, Canton 9 Tuzla - 2,281 returns, Brcko, separation zone - 2,901 returns). Compared to the total number of return applications for Brcko, up until now some 12 per cent of returns have been realized. We cannot be satisfied with this, for, in addition to a meagre level of realization of the return to Brcko, such a low rate of returns to Brcko also slows down the process of "emptying" the Federation for two-way returns.

The pace of return to Brcko up to 1998 was temporarily slowed down owing to the activities on the elaboration and adoption of the District of Brcko statute, which is supposed to contribute to the intensifying of return to Brcko. By the end of 1999, through the establishment of the multi-ethnic Housing Commission, first steps were made in the direction of removing illegal users and returning property to lawful owners.

VI. COMMISSION FOR REAL PROPERTY CLAIMS

The Commission for Real Property Claims of Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees was established in March 1996, pursuant to annex 7 of the Dayton Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent body consisting of the three members representing the international community and six members representing the nations of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The national representatives were appointed by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (four) and by the Republika Srpska (two).

The primary objective of the Commission for Real Property Claims is to establish a legal ownership system that would, once functional, contribute to the creation of a stable and economically independent Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Commission for Real Property Claims is mandated to accept and resolve the real property claims in Bosnia and Herzegovina if a person is not in possession of his/her property and if the property has not been sold or in some other way legally transferred since 1 April 1992.

The Commission for Real Property Claims is authorized to reach final and legally binding decisions in cases of real property claims and tenants' rights and its decisions must be respected by both entities.

The Commission for Real Property Claims has eight regional offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, five in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, two in the Republic of Croatia, four in the Netherlands and one in Denmark.

The Commission for Real Property Claims also represents a valuable source of data on the rights of internally displaced persons and refugees relating to their real property in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The data will be used in the process of elaboration of return programmes.

During the period from April 1996 to the end of January 2000, the Commission for Real Property Claims received 197,191 claims pertaining to 251,619 properties in Bosnia and Herzegovina and it has reached close to 80,000 decisions.

Enclosure II

MINORITY RETURNS FROM 1/1/1996 TO 31/12/1999 IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

F EDERATION :

CANTON 1: UNA-SANA	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Bihac		44	68	112		27	267	294		24	393	417		95	728	823
Bosanska Krupa			9	9		5	73	78			177	177		5	259	264
Bosanski Petrovac		59	62	121		3	227	230		5	885	890		67	1.174	1.241
Buzim							1	1							1	1
Cazin		1		1		2	1	3						3	1	4
Kljuc		21	14	35		3	19	22		2	70	72		26	103	129
Sanski Most		840	95	935		14	244	258		11	85	96		865	424	1.289
Velika Kladusa		5	4	9		2	28	30		1	22	23		8	54	62
Total:		970	252	1.222		56	860	916		43	1.632	1.675		1.069	2.744	3.813

CANTON 2: POSAVINA	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Domaljevac	95		29	124			19	19	7		2	9	102		50	152
Odzak	5.992		12	6.004	743		3	746			15	15	6.735		30	6.765
Orasje	69			69	109		20	129	4		48	52	182		68	250
Total:	6.156		41	6.197	852		42	894	11		65	76	7.019		148	7.167

CANTON 3: TUZLA	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Banovici		114	55	169		2		2		8	36	44		124	91	215
Brcko		2.281		2.281		257	37	294		4	3	7		2.542	40	2.582
Celic							168	168		109	101	210		109	269	378
Doboj East											4	4			4	4
Gradacac		48	4	52		43	3	46		49	85	134		140	92	232
Kalesija		21		21		4		4			17	17		25	17	42
Lukavac			600	600		12	2	14			761	761		12	1.363	1.375
Srebrenik		7		7										7		7
Tuzla		5	11	16		102	276	378		354	203	557		461	490	951
Teocak						3	2	5						3	2	5
Sapna/Zvornik										3		3		3		3
Zivinice			1	1		6		6		10	12	22		16	13	29
Total:		2.476	671	3.147		429	488	917		537	1.222	1.759		3.442	2.381	5.823

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CANTON 4: ZENICA-DOBOJ	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Breza		26	15	41		66	36	102		5	6	11		97	57	154
Doboj South						13	11	24						13	11	24
Kakanj		300	57	357		818	20	838		235	3	238		1 353	80	1 433
Maglaj		2	6	8		19	5	24		11	8	19		32	19	51
Olovo							3	3		4	2	6		4	5	9
Tesanj		18	2	20		8		8						26	2	28
Usora							4	4	8			8	8		4	12
Vares		2.036	14	2.050	7	1 097	46	1 150	6	286	25	317	13	3 419	85	3.517
Visoko		4	1	5		65	35	100		25	53	78		94	89	183
Zavidovici		14	50	64		341	12	353		262	59	321		617	121	738
Zenica		2 006	1 008	3.014		206	68	274		246	180	426		2 458	1 256	3 714
Zepce					723	251		974	30	44	57	131	753	295	57	1 105
Total:		4.406	1.153	5.559	730	2.884	240	3.854	44	1.118	393	1.555	774	8.408	1.786	10.968

CANTON 5: BOSNIA-PODRINJE	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Foca			5	5			30	30			2	2			37	37
Gorazde		3	17	20		1	70	71		2	38	40		6	125	131
Pale							20	20			3	3			23	23
Total:		3	22	25		1	120	121		2	43	45		6	185	191

CANTON 6: CENTRAL BOSNIA	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Bugojno		800		800		1 869	55	1 924		1 406	152	1 558		4 075	207	4 282
Busovaca	164			164	366	40		406	473	72	11	556	1 003	112	11	1 126
Donji Vakuf		42	20	62		81	10	91		39	36	75		162	66	228
Fojnica		365		365		366	2	368		886	6	892		1 617	8	1 625
Gornji Vakuf		1	5	6	5			5	42	283		325	47	284	5	336
Jajce	2 591			2 591	3 383			3 383	1 120	10	13	1 143	7 094	10	13	7 117
Kiseljak			11	11	541	10	24	575	1 512	83	23	1 618	2 053	93	58	2 204
Kresevo	4	97		101	160	40		200	391	23	1	415	555	160	1	716
Novi Travnik			1	1	9	48		57	322	44	33	399	331	92	34	457
Travnik	14	1 777	12	1 803		1 190	39	1 229	20	558	117	695	34	3 525	168	3 727
Vitez					585	15	1	601	598	104		702	1 183	119	1	1 303
Total:	2 773	3 082	49	5 904	5 049	3 659	131	8 839	4 478	3 508	392	8 378	12 300	10 249	572	23 121

CANTON 7: HERZEGOVINA-NERETVA	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Caplijina					265		205	470	120		70	190	385		275	660
Jablanica		20		20			2	2			6	6		20	8	28
Konjic		319	39	358		692	112	804		107	29	136		1 118	180	1 298
Mostar East		49	93	142		184	500	684		77	337	414		310	930	1 240
Mostar West			2	2	520		289	809	176		166	342	696		457	1 153
Neum					30		10	40	20			20	50		10	60
Prozor	568			568	418		5	423	470			470	1 456		5	1 461
Ravno											50	50			50	50
Stolac	278			278	526		19	545	185		269	454	989		288	1 277
Total:	846	388	134	1.368	1.759	876	1.142	3.777	971	184	927	2.082	3.576	1.448	2.203	7.227

CANTON 8: WEST HERZEGOVINA	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Ljubuski	40			40	395		5	400	90			90	525	*	5	530
Total	40			40	395		5	400	90			90	525		5	530

CANTON 9: SARAJEVO	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Centar						588	583	1.171		350	900	1.250		938	1 483	2.421
Hadzici						280	224	504		70	200	270		350	424	774
Ilidza						1 029	329	1 358		600	1 000	1 600		1 629	1 329	2 958
Ilijas						402	102	504		100	300	400		502	402	904
Novi Grad						1 654	2 164	3 818		1 020	2 200	3 220		2.674	4 364	7 038
Novo Sarajevo						664	363	1 027		650	900	1 550		1.314	1.263	2.577
Stari Grad						136	162	298		50	200	250		186	362	548
Trnovo						20	10	30		5	45	50		25	55	80
Vogosca						384	300	684		100	700	800		484	1 000	1 484
Total:		13 322	5 633	18.955		5 157	4 237	9.394		2.945	6 445	9.390		21.424	16.315	37.739

CANTON 10: HERZEG-BOSNIA	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Bosansko Grahovo			34	34			816	816			1 174	1 174			2 024	2 024
Drvar	3		538	541	32		2 253	2 285			1 577	1 577	35		4 368	4 403
Glamoc	500		20	520	236		22	258	15		127	142	751		169	920
Kupres					3		10	13	22		2	24	25		12	37
Livno	873		4	877	20			20			20	20	893		24	917
Tomislavgrad	9			9	101			101					110			110

Total:	1 385		596	1 981	392		3 101	3 493	37		2 900	2 937	1 814		6 597	8 411

	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Total FEDERATION :	11 200	24 647	8 551	**44 398**	9 177	13 062	10 366	**32 605**	5 631	8 337	14 019	**27 987**	**26 008**	**46 046**	**32 936**	**104 990**

	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
REPUBLIKA SRPSKA :	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Banja Luka	186	26		212	358	104		462	303	160		463	847	290		1 137
Berkovici					12			12	60			60	72			72
Bijeljina					4			4	500			500	504			504
Brcko (Zone of separation)					2 600			2 600					2 600			2 600
Cajnice									50			50	50			50
Celinac					3			3	128			128	131			131
Derventa					28	2		30	339	28		367	367	30		397
Doboj	66	79		145	1 260	5		1 265	1 841	23		1 864	3 167	107		3 274
Gacko									32			32	32			32
Gradiska	13	3		16	601	1		602	454			454	1 068	4		1 072
Knezevo									48	5		53	48	5		53
Kotor Varos	13	5		18	274	13		287	378			378	665	18		683
Kozarska Dubica	11			11	45			45	130			130	186			186
Laktasi		12		12	4	51		55	6	15		21	10	78		88
Lopare	6			6					160			160	166			166
Milici									1			1	1			1
Modrica		3		3					101	7		108	101	10		111
Mrkonjic Grad	52			52	198			198	100	38		138	350	38		388
Nevesinje									168	3		171	168	3		171
Novi Grad	24			24	7			7	678			678	709			709
Orasje										65		65		65		65
Osmaci	489			489	80			80	420			420	989			989
Pale						1		1	18			18	18	1		19
Pelagicevo						44		44		738		738		782		782
Prijedor	32	4		36	47	27		74	1 786	39		1 825	1 865	70		1 935
Prnjavor					67	50		117	139			139	206	50		256
Ribnik		19		19										19		19
Samac					8	236		244	22	10		32	30	246		276
Sekovici									1			1	1			1
Sipovo	30			30	387			387					417			417
Sokolac									36			36	36			36

Srbac	40			40	195			195	10			10	245			245
Srpska Kostajnica	2			2	7			7	64			64	73			73
Srpski Brod		7		7	5	8		13	368	15		383	373	30		403
Srpski Sanski Most										82		82		82		82
Srpsko Gorazde					25			25					25			25
Teslic	1	1		2	1 280			1.280	442	58		500	1 723	59		1 782
Trebinje	1			1					12			12	13			13
Ugljevik					86			86	204			204	290			290
Vlasenica									22			22	22			22
Vukosavlje									290	66		356	290	66		356
Zvornik					463			463	2 357			2.357	2 820			2 820
Total REPUBLIKA SRPSKA :	966	159		1 125	8 044	542		8.586	11.668	1.352		13.020	20.678	2.053		22.731

	1996 - 1997				1998				1999				1996 - 1999			
	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total	Bos	Cro	Ser	Total
Total BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA:	12.166	24.806	8.551	45.523	17.221	13.604	10.366	41.191	17.299	9.689	14.019	41.007	46.686	48.099	32.936	127.721

Source: UNHCR, Municipal Authorities, DPs Associations and NGOs